

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124974

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ITF-05 INSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 SS-15

AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /098 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:LMPETERS:FMLC

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EA/VN:OABARTLEY

S/S-O:MTANNER

IATF:AANTIPPAS

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R 291803Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 124974

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE PASSPORTS

1. FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS
QUERIES CONCERNING VALIDITY OF GVN PASSPORTS AND DOCUMENTA-
TION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FOR TRAVEL ABROAD.

2. PASSPORTS ISSUED BY FORMER GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF
VIET-NAM WILL BE OF LIMITED VALUE FOR TRAVEL PURPOSE, SINCE
THEIR VALIDITY FOR TRAVEL ABROAD IS DETERMINED BY THE
WILLINGNESS OF THIRD COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT THEM.
AS MORE AND MORE NATIONS RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME IN SOUTH
VIET-NAM, THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO CEASE RECOGNIZING PASS-

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PAGE 02 STATE 124974

PORTS ISSUED BY THE FORMER VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. AT THE
SAME TIME IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON

WILL EXTEND OR HONOR PASSPORTS ISSUED BY THE FORMER GOVERNMENT.

3. VIETNAMESE NATIONALS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IMMIGRATING TO THE US, SHOULD, HOWEVER, RETAIN EVEN EXPIRED VIETNAMESE PASSPORTS FOR THEIR POSSIBLE UTILITY AS AN IDENTITY DOCUMENT IN AN APPLICATION FOR US PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN STATUS OR EVENTUAL NATURALIZATION.

4. A PASSPORT ISSUED BY THE FORMER SAIGON GOVERNMENT IS OF NO VALUE FOR THE PURPOSES OF A NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION SINCE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE BEARER WOULD BE ADMITTED TO VIET-NAM. AS THE NEW GOVERNMENT OPENS ITS EMBASSIES, SOUTH VIETNAMESE NATIONALS CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE ORDERED TO EXCHANGE THEIR OLD PASSPORTS FOR ONES OF NEW ISSUE. ANY INDIVIDUAL CONTINUING TO CARRY A SOUTH VIETNAMESE PASS PORT IN THE FACE OF SUCH AN ORDER WOULD PRESUMED TO BE A REFUGEE AND THE CONSULAR OFFICER SHOULD QUESTION WHETHER A COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE ABROAD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

5. WITH RESPECT TO VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANTS TO THE US, CONSULAR OFFICERS SHOULD NOTE THE PROVISIONS OF 22 CFR 42.6. MOST VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANTS WOULD NOW BE COVERED UNDER THE BLANKET EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PASSPORT REQUIREMENT COVERED IN SECTIONS A THROUGH F. WE WOULD CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE A VALID GVN PASSPORT AS WELL.

6. VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS TRAVELLING ABROAD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE TRAVELLING ON REENTRY PERMITS (IF THEY HAVE PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN STATUS) OR ON TEMPORARY TRAVEL PERMITS ISSUED BY THE INS (IF THEY WERE ADMITTED AS REFUGEES AND HAVE ONLY PAROLEE STATUS). THE TEMPORARY TRAVEL PERMIT WILL BE EITHER IN THE FORM OF AN I- 512PRE-PAROLE DOCUMENT OR AN INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENT. IN VIEW OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF ASSURING THE ACCEPTABILITY TO INDIVIDUAL NATIONS OF THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTS THAT MIGHT BE ISSUED WE ARE SUGGESTING THAT INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO RESIDE ABROAD WITH VIETNAMESE
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PAGE 03 STATE 124974

DEPENDENTS MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE THE STATUS ADJUSTED PRIOR TO TAKING UP RESIDENCE ABROAD.

7. SHOULD POSTS RECEIVE INQUIRIES CONCERNING VIETNAMESE PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS ALREADY ABROAD YOU MAY ASSURE THAT THEY WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE US IF PROPERLY DOCUMENTED WITH 1-151, REENTRY DOCUMENTS, OR RETURNING RESIDENT VISAS. YOU MAY WISH TO REVIEW PROVISIONS OF 22 CFR 42.5 NOTE 1 WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF THE 1-151 BY DEPENDENTS OF US MILITARY AND CIVILIAN USG EMPLOYEES. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE124974
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LMPETERS:FMLC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750188-1105
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975058/aaaaahbz.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 DEC 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE PASSPORTS
TAGS: SREF, CPAS, VS, GQ
To: ALL POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006